

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00

AEC-11 DRC-01 /168 W

----- 069978

R 071935Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3156

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3542

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 5992

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJ: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING DECEMBER 7, 1973: AGENDA ITEM V. C,
STUDY ON SPECIALIZATION IN THE CENTRAL REGION

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR; GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

REF: STATE 238820

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT DPC MINISTERIAL DEC 7, DEFENSE MINISTERS
APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS IN DPC/D(73)31. LUNS URGED JOINT
PROCUREMENT OF F104G REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT. IN ONLY STATE-
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MENT MADE ON SPECIALIZATION, VREDELING (NETHERLANDS)
REITERATED THAT DUTCH DO NOT INTEND TO UNLOAD DEFENSE TASKS
ON OTHERS NOR REDUCE NUCLEAR ROLE. NETHERLANDS ARE DISCUSSING
LANCE TRADE-OFF WITH FRG, AND WILL REPLACE F104G IN NEAR

FUTURE IN CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES WHO ARE FACED WITH SAME PROBLEM. END SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCING SUBJECT, LUNS CHARACTERIZED SPECIALIZATION AND RATIONALIZATION AS OFFERING POSSIBILITY OF USING AVAILABLE RESOURCES IN AN OPTIMUM MANNER IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMON DEFENSE. THE SECRETARY GENERAL NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF AIR FORCES, THE BELGIANS ESPECIALLY, ARE EQUIPPED WITH THE F104G AND ARE FACED WITH PROBLEM OF REPLACEMENT IN SAME TIME FRAME AS DUTCH. THUS, CONTINUED LUNS, THERE IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF JOINT PROCUREMENT AND IT WOULD BE DEPLORABLE TO MISS IT.

2. VREDELING MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT. QUOTE:

WHEN I PROPOSED AT OUR MEETING IN JUNE THE SETTING UP OF A STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF SPECIALISATION OF TASKS BY INTERESTED COUNTRIES IN THE CENTRAL REGION, I HAD TWO MAIN PURPOSES IN MIND. FIRSTLY THE GENERAL PURPOSE THAT SPECIALISATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE ALLIANCE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN OPTIMUM COMBAT VALUE FOR MONEY; SECONDLY THE PARTICULAR NETHERLANDS' PROBLEM CONCERNING THE URGENCY OF DECISIONS ON REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT.

WE WERE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE DECISION TO SET UP THIS STUDY AND THE REQUEST FOR A CONCRETE REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS SESSION. THE REPORT BEFORE US WILL ENABLE THE NETHERLANDS' GOVERNMENT TO TAKE RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE HONEST JOHN AND THE REPLACEMENT OF THE F104 AIRCRAFT. I APPRECIATE THAT THIS REPORT COULD ONLY BE FINISHED IN TIME BECAUSE OF THE VERY POSITIVE COOPERATION OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, OF THE STEERING GROUP OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, AND OF THE CAPABLE EXPERTS FROM COUNTRIES AND THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES. MAY I EXPRESS HERE MY GOVERNMENT'S GRATITUDE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION.

IN ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT I SHOULD LIKE
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TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS. IN THE FIRST PLACE I REPEAT TO AVOID ALL MISUNDERSTANDING, LET ME CLEARLY REPEAT THAT THE NETHERLANDS' INITIATIVE WAS NOT INTENDED TO UNLOAD OUR TASKS ON OTHERS, NOR TO REDUCE OUR SHARE IN THE NUCLEAR TASKS OF THE ALLIANCE.

WITH REGARD TO LANCE, I REALIZE THAT THE SUBGROUP ON LANDFORCES CONSIDERED IT MORE EFFICIENT IF THE NETHERLANDS WOULD BUY THE LANCE ALONG THE SAME LINES AS OTHER PARTNERS BUT THE NETHERLANDS' AUTHORITIES DECIDED AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION THAT PROCUREMENT OF LANCE WOULD NOT FIT IN WITH THEIR OVERALL POLICY, AND PREFERRED THEREFORE THE SO CALLED OPTION 3 MENTIONED IN THE REPORT, WHICH MEANS THAT AN-OTHER COUNTRY WOULD PROVIDE THE MODERN SSM-SYSTEM IN SUPPORT OF THE FIRST NETHERLANDS' CORPS, IN

THE CENTRAL SECTOR THE NETHERLANDS AT THE SAME TIME ASSUMING
ANOTHER EQUIVALENT EFFORT. BILATERAL TALKS ARE AT PRESENT GOING
ON WITH THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT A SATISFACTORY
AND FAIR ARRANGEMENT. OUR GERMAN COLLEAGUE KNOWS ALREADY HOW
GRATELY I VALUE HIS COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER, BUT I LIKE
TO REPEAT THAT HERE. BEFORE LEAVING THE SUBJECT OF LANCE,
LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT WE FULLY ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE NUCLEAR SUPPORT THUS ACCORDED TO THE FIRST NETHERLANDS'
CORPS.

MISTER CHAIRMAN, THE RECOMMENDATION WITH REGARD TO THE AIR
FORCE, STATING THAT THE NETHERLANDS SHOULD CONCENTRATE
PROGRESSIVELY ON CONVENTIONAL OFFENSIVE AIR OPERATION WITH
A CAPABILITY FOR LIMITED AIR SUPERIORITY AND A LIMITED
NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IS SATISFACTORY TO MY GOVERNMENT. IT
WOULD HAVE BEEN FINANCIALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE NETHERLANDS
TO ACQUIRE A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD BE
NEEDED TO FULFIL ALL THE TASKS FOR WHICH THE STARFIGHTER
WAS DESIGNED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 5992

THE PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS REMOVED AN IMPORTANT OBSTACLE FROM OUR DELIBERATIONS AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I HAVE THE FIRM INTENTION TO REPLACE THE STARFIGHTER IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

BUT AS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND I WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN OUR CABINET.

THE FINANCIAL PLAN REQUIRED WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE WHITE PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED NEXT SPRING. THE SELECTION OF THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IS, OF COURSE, STILL AN OPEN MATTER AND WE CERTAINLY INTEND TO CONSULT ON THIS WITH OTHER ALLIES THAT ARE FACED WITH A SIMILAR DECISION AND WITH THE OPTION YOU MENTIONED
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OF JOINT PROCUREMENT.

AS REGARDS THE REST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS, I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE SPECIALISATION STUDY WILL BE CONTINUED WITH THE SAME VIGOUR THAT WAS DISPLAYED UP TILL NOW. I AM NOT SPEAKING NOW OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE NETHERLANDS, BUT ABOUT THE GENERAL NEED OF FURTHER SPECIALISATION. THE WORKING GROUPS ON THE NAVY AND LOGISTICS HAVE ONLY JUST STARTED THEIR WORK AND THE SUBGROUP LAND HAS ALREADY INDICATED INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER STUDY.

FINALLY, MISTER CHAIRMAN, THERE IS THE MATTER OF PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE STUDY. I UNDERSTAND THE ARGUMENTS FOR INCORPORATING THE STUDY INTO THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING NATO BODIES, BUT THE PRAGMATIC APPROACH HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF PRACTICALITY AND RESULTS ARE LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED MORE QUICKLY IN AN INFORMAL WAY. I AM CONFIDENT HOWEVER, THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO FIND A SUITABLE SOLUTION. THIS SHOULD NOT PREVENT THE STUDY FROM BEING CONTINUED IN THE MEANTIME AND I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THE SUBGROUPS ON LAND- AND MARITIME FORCES AND LOGISTICS CONTINUE THEIR WORK WITHOUT DELAY. A DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CONTINUE THE AIRFORCE STUDY SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE SUBGROUP AIR TO MAKE A SURVEY OF POSSIBLE AREAS FOR SPECIALISATION. IT IS FELT THAT SPECIALISATION IS MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED IF IT IS IMPLEMENTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INTRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF NEW EQUIPMENT.

END QUOTE.

3. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. REPORT (DPC/D(73)31) WAS APPROVED.

4. COMMENT: PRIOR TO MEETING MISSION DREW ON REFTEL IN REQUESTING NETHERLANDS DELEGATION TO AVOID MAKING SPECIFIC SPECIALIZATION PROPOSALS AT MINISTERIAL. NETHERLANDS DEL WAS VERY COOPERATIVE AND EVEN GAVE US ADVANCE COPY OF

VREDELING'S STATEMNT. WE NOTED THAT SPECIFICS HAD ALREADY
BEEN DROPPED. PROBABLY AS RESULT OF OUR REQUEST, HOWEVER,
VREDELING DELETED A FINAL SENTENCE FROM HIS STATEMENT,
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WHICH WOULD HAVE READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: SUGGESTIONS ON
SPECIFIC AREAS FOR FURTHER STUDY WILL BE FORTHCOMING SOON.
END QUOTE. RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO05992
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 12/31/79
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731255/abqcedum.tel
Line Count: 229
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 238820
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <15-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING DECEMBER 7, 1973: AGENDA ITEM V. C, STUDY ON SPECIALIZATION IN THE CENTRAL REGION
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CINCUSAREUR

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005